

SMOKE SIGNALS

For Radio Amateurs • By Radio Amateurs

Published Monthly Since 1969 • Our 31st Year

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APRS is off to an exciting start in Central WI

By Kim Kunze, N9SDL, and Mike Martens, KB9VBR

What's all this excitement about APRS? Well, different things about APRS excite everybody differently. To one it might be a reason to buy a new rig. To another it is a good reason to resurrect some equipment that has been on the shelf collecting dust. To me it was the impressive sight to watch a Ham friend of mine track across my computer screen on a street level map and actually track him into the city parking lot where he parked his car in addition to all of the above.

APRS or the Amateur Position Reporting System has seen increased activity in the Wausau and surrounding area. As we got

started, we used the local repeater while testing and setting up our computers and the software. We also used the repeater to talk to the hams that we were tracking on our computer screens. This did a lot to spark interest in other hams, as I'm sure they were wondering what the heck these guys are talking about. How are they seeing the speed and direction of the mobile unit? What is all of this talk about Wide coverage digi's, unproto paths, unconnected packets, mobile units with mc's built in, sending GPS information to other stations and on and on. We were having a good time and the other guys knew it!

The following best describes APRS, the Automated Position Reporting System. It [APRS] is a tactical information network that sends position information and short messages over the airwaves. This information can be displayed in real time on a map using the appropriate computer software. APRS is a one to many protocol, so the information is received by all users capable of receiving it. APRS is an excellent protocol for sharing location and short message information during public service events, storm spotting, or EOC operations.

So how did we get started? It took the excitement of a relatively new ham, Mike Martens (KB9VBR) to keep mentioning the new modes such as PSK31 and ultimately

APRS. Mike knew quite a bit about it and we followed his lead. We found a lot of good information on the web sites of hams in southeastern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois where they had elaborate networks already up and running. We asked questions of those that were experienced and determined that if we were to have a successful APRS network in the central Wisconsin area we needed to form an APRS Steering committee.

The purpose of the APRS steering committee is to basically design, implement and maintain a network of APRS home and mobile stations. To insure that those interested in operating APRS were guided as

Please turn to page 4

STS-AO-40 Crew Chosen from RMRA

Five members of the Rib Mountain Repeater Association at Wausau have been chosen by NASA to man the next shuttle flight. Mission STS-AO-40 is a repair project to the ailing AMSAT OSCAR-40 Phase IIID satellite. The launch is scheduled for the day after March 31. The satellite has been having communications and orientation problems since its launch in September 2000.

Mission Commander of the unusual crew will be RMRA President Rich Maier, KC9NW. Shuttle Pilot will be Bill Bergs, KC9UC. Dean Andrewjeski, K9PT, will be operating the shuttle's remote manipulator arm while Mission Specialists Scott Tatrow, N9NQQ, and Paul Nelles, K9DB, will con-

duct two planned spacewalks to repair the satellite.

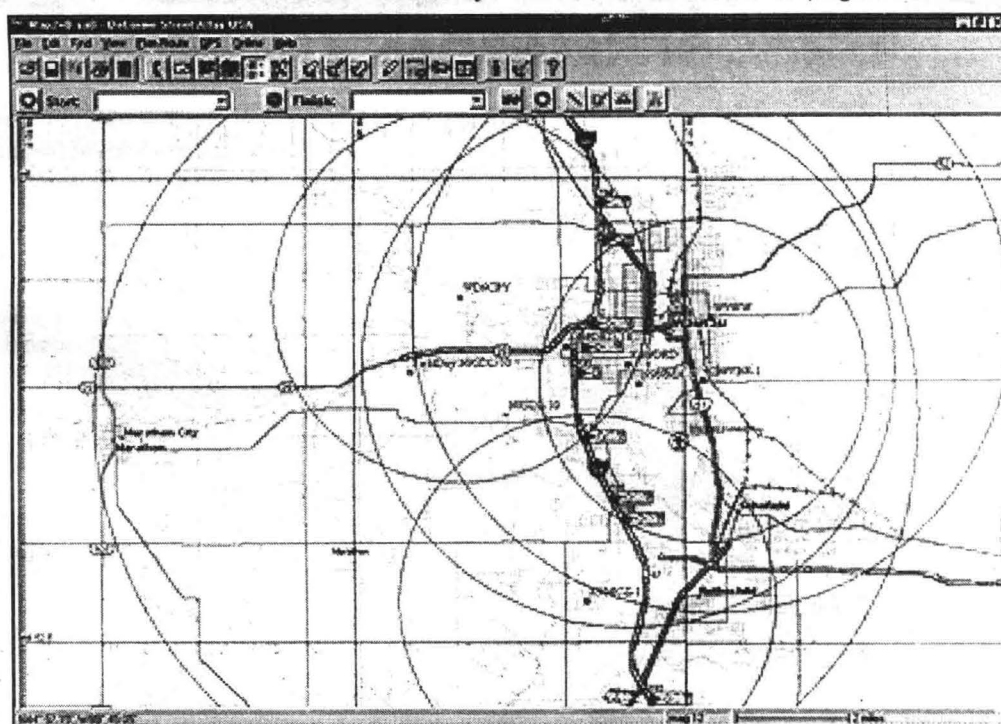
When asked about crew selection, NASA head Dan Goldin said, "At first we were a bit leery about assigning a completely inexperienced crew, especially since they don't even work for us. We weighed the benefits of fixing OSCAR against the risks of losing a multi-billion dollar spacecraft. Then we thought, 'What the hell. It's only money. We've got three more!'"

Much concern has been raised over the \$350 million cost of a mission to save a \$2 million volunteer-built satellite. Goldin has a one word reply: "Image".

Paul Nelles, K9DB



Front row, left to right: Pilot KC9UC, Mission Specialist K9PT, Mission Commander KC9NW. Back row: Mission Specialists N9NQQ and K9DB.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

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Edited by Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901 • kebnetter@palacenet.net

Swapfests And Other Social Events

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2001 Madison Swapfest Mandt Community Center 400 Mandt Parkway Stoughton, WI Doors open at 8 a.m. Sponsored by MARA/W9HSY P.O. Box 8890, Madison WI 53708-8890 Info Line: (608) 245-8890 <http://www.qsl.net/mara/>

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2001 Ozaukee Radio and Computer Swapfest 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Circle B Recreation Center, Intersection of Highway 60 and County I. Info: Ozaukee Radio Club W55 N865 Cedar Ridge Drive Cedarburg, WI 53012

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2001 Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club Hamfest 2001 Information: Jim Staatz, KG9RA P.O. Box 1867, Eau Claire WI 54702-1867 Web: <http://www.ecarc.org> Email: w9eau@ecarc.org

SATURDAY, JULY 7, 2001 Hamfest 01 South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club American Legion Park, Oak Creek Info: Verne at (414) 762-3235

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 2001 Circus City Swapfest Sponsored by Yellow Thunder ARC Sauk County Fairgrounds 7 a.m. to noon Info: Steve,

N9UDO, 608.356.2313 or Bill, N9KXX, 608.643.6908/643.6453 <http://www.qsl.net/ytarc>

As a service to our readers, this section is available without charge to list your upcoming swapfest, hamfest, dinner, picnic, party or other event of interest to Radio Amateurs in Wisconsin and nearby areas. Send information on your event to kebnetter@palacenet.net.



CLUB MEETINGS

ARROWHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Superior, WI
Meetings: Second Tuesday at WITC Conference Center, 600 N. 21st St., Superior, WI. Time: 7:30 p.m. Board meetings held before regular meetings.

BADGER AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
University of Wisconsin - Madison/W9YT
Meetings: First Mondays at 7:30 p.m. in UW Union South. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, (608) 263-4685. Email: w9ixg@arrl.org. Web: <http://www.qsl.net/w9yt>.

BADGERLAND AMATEUR TELEVISION SOCIETY (BATS)
Check BATS Web page: <http://www.shopstop.net/>

BATS/

CENTRAL WISCONSIN RADIO AMATEURS
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, WI Second Wednesday.

EAU CLAIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday - 7 p.m., Eau Claire Parks & Recreation, 1300 First Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54703. All hams and guests welcome. W9EAU repeater 146.91 MHz, tone 110.9 Hz. Information: Jim Staatz, KG9RA, (715) 838-9108, or kg9ra@ecarc.org Web page: <http://www.ecarc.org>

FALLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Menomonee Falls, WI
Meetings: Last Wednesdays at Bank One building in Germantown. Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting time: 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome!

FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Fond du Lac, WI
Meetings: Second Monday at Moraine Park Technical College, Fond du Lac, WI. Time: 7 p.m. Information: Gene Olig, KD9ZP, gaolig@pitnet.net Web: <http://personal.pitnet.net/FDLHAMS/>

FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Madison, WI
Meetings: First and third Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Red Cross Building, 4860 Sheboygan Avenue, Room C, downstairs. First building west of Hill Farms State Office Building.

FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Meetings: Third Mondays, 7 p.m., Columbus Club 2531 N. Richmond Street, Appleton, WI Information: Pat, K9IK, 920.725.1149. PLatour428@aol.com Web: <http://www.w9zl.ampr.org/>

GREATER MILWAUKEE DX ASSOCIATION
Meetings: Fourth Monday of month, 7:30 p.m. Contact any GMDXA member, or Gary Schwartz, K9GS, (414) 363-4439. Email: garyk9gs@solaria.sol.net. Packet cluster NB9C for meeting information.

GREEN BAY MIKE AND KEY CLUB
Meetings: Second Thursdays, Media Services area of J. M. Science Building at St. Norbert College in De Pere.

GREEN FOX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Greater Green Lake County area.
Meetings: Third Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Green Lake Town Hall, intersection of County Highways K and N.

LAKESHORE REPEATER ASSOCIATION
Racine, WI
Meetings: Last Tuesday, January, April, July, October. New meeting location to be announced.

M & M AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Menomonee, MI
General meetings: Monthly, second Thursday, 7 p.m., cafeteria, BAMC basement, Tenth Avenue, Menomonee, MI. Amateurs and guests welcome. Repeater: 147.00, + offset. Sunday net: 7 p.m., 147.00 repeater. Address: P.O. Box 1082, Marinette, MI 54143.

MANITOWOC COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS (ManCoRad)
Second Wednesdays of each month except June-August, when no meetings are held. Regular meeting: 7:30 p.m., Associated Bank, lower level, 1000 Franklin St., Manitowoc, WI. Located right next to the Manitowoc River in the downtown area. Additional informa-

Badger State Smoke Signals

Amateur Radio Education and Information

CHAIRMAN: Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. Telephone (608) 742-3560. kebnetter@palacenet.net

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EDITORIAL BOARD: Ken Ebnetter, K9EN; Don Evenson, K9JYX; Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ.

Subscription Rate

| | | |
|--------|-------------|---------|
| 1 year | (12 issues) | \$13.95 |
|--------|-------------|---------|

Subscription form is on page 5. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month for the next month's issue. For example, the closing date for the June issue is May 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections, and exchange papers should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Editorial material, photographs, and feature articles should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebnetter.

Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Swapfest ADS should be sent to Jim Romelfanger NO LATER THAN EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE THE EVENT'S DATE.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebnetter.

Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

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Badger State Smoke Signals is incorporated as a Wisconsin non-stock, non-for-profit organization.

Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

tion: Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, (920) 682-9312. Email: fredw6bsf@lakefield.net.

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS CLUB

Meetings: Last Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. (starting in January, time is 7 p.m.), Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI. Address: P. O. Box 070695, Milwaukee, WI 53207. Web: <http://www.qsl.net/mrac> Email: w9rh@arrl.net

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN DX ASSOCIATION

Meetings quarterly: April 28, Marinette; August 25, Fox Valley; November 10, Green Bay. For specific information about meetings, check <http://home.new.rr.com/newdxa/> Contact us at w9dxa@arrl.net

NORTHWOODS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Rhineland, WI

Meetings: Third Tuesdays. Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting 7:30 p.m. South Park School, Rhineland. Talk-in 146.94 (-600). All visitors welcome.

OZAUKEE RADIO CLUB

Ozaukee County area, WI

Meetings: Second Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Grafton Multipurpose Senior Center. Information: <http://www.qsl.net/orc>.

QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA)

Wisconsin Chapter 55

Wisconsin Chapter 55 meets the first Saturday of June and October. For information about Chapter 55, contact Ron Yokes, W9BCK, Secretary, 612 N.Pt Washington Road, Grafton, WI 53024-9703. (262) 375-1774. <mailto:rryokes@execpc.com>

QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA)

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162

Meetings: Third Monday in January, March, May, July, September, and November, 7:30 p.m., usually at Meadows Restaurant, Franksville, WI. Social events: Third Sundays in February, April, June, August, and October. Christmas party: Usually second or third Sunday in December.

RACINE MEGACYCLE CLUB

Meetings: Second Mondays, 7:30 p.m., New meeting location to be announced.

RADIO AMATEURS OF WISCONSIN (R.A.W.)

Oshkosh, WI

Meetings: Third Saturday monthly, locations vary. "R.A.W. is a family oriented club. Most of its meetings revolve around family doings and outings. We are always looking for good people to join us. If you are a ham or interested in ham radio, contact Mark Miller, N9WT, (920) 231-1662, or Duane Ritschke, W9UDX, (920) 233-1684.

RED CEDAR REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC.

Saturday coffee at Hardee's in North Monomonic, corner of Highways 12 and 25 at 9 a.m. Social hour on 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Peppermill Too, 1414 9th Street in the L-Mart Shopping Center in January, March, April, and September through November. Guests welcome!

RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Onalaska, WI

Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Onalaska Community Center.

ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB

Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Dodge County Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, WI. ARES Nets: 146.64 (-600) Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, 7277 KHz, 10:30 a.m.

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: Second Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Sheboygan County Red Cross/Boy Scout Building, 2032 Erie Avenue. NORTHLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of SHELL LAKE, WI Meetings: First Tuesday at the Shell Lake United Methodist Church, Reinhart Drive, Shell Lake, WI. Meeting time: 7 p.m. More information: <http://home.centurytel.net/NorthlandARC/>

SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: First Wednesdays, Legion Post 434, Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, WI. Auctions in March and October. SPACE PLACE AMATEUR RADIO CENTER No meetings. Located on U.W.-Madison campus. Guest operators are welcome to operate the U.W. Space Place Amateur Radio Station, N9UW. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, President, (608) 263-4685. Email: n9uw@sal.wisc.edu

St. CROIX VALLEY RADIO AMATEURS

Hudson, WI

Meetings: Third Tuesdays, St. Croix County Emergency Government Center, Carmichael Road, Hudson. Short business meeting at 7:30 p.m. followed by program. Talkin: 145.13 MHz. All are welcome!

TAYLOR COUNTY AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (TCAARC)

Medford, WI

Meetings: Usually first Thursday, 7 p.m. sharp. Usual location: Emergency Government meeting room/Red Cross Office, basement of Sheriff's Annex to Taylor County Courthouse, 2nd and Ogden Streets, Medford. Talkin: 147.15 (+600) MHz. Amateurs and guests are welcome. ARES Net: Wednesdays, 8:30 p.m., 147.15 (+600) repeater. Information: Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, P.O. Box 401, Abbotsford, WI 54405. Phone: (715) 223-3996.

TRI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: Held at members' homes. Usually monthly on Sunday afternoon. Contact: Glenn Eisenbrandt, (414) 563-6502, or John Satterlee, (414) 5563-6381.

WASHINGTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: Second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Washington County Courthouse. Net: Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., 146.73 (-600).

WATERTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: First Thursdays of month, 7 p.m., Watertown Public Library, 100 South Water Street.

WAUPACA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

"CQ First Tue.": Social gathering and Dutch treat luncheon, King's Table, King, WI, on Highway QQ, just south of Highways 10 and 54, west side of Waupaca. Gather at 11 to 11:30. Order at noon. Club business transacted. "CQ Third Fri.": Social gathering and Dutch treat dinner. Semi-formal, OM and XYL, at one of the better supper clubs in the area. Check: Waupaca 147.39 nets at 8 a.m. or 8:50 p.m. for month's meeting location.

WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB

Meetings: Second Tuesdays, 8 p.m., St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 7929 Lincoln Avenue, entrance is at rear of building on alley. Information: <http://www.warac.org>.

WISCONSIN RAPIDS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: Third Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Room 14 of Wood County Courthouse. Talkin: 146.79 (-600) for entry into the building.

WISCONSIN VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION

Wausau, WI

Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Location varies. Information: 146.64 (-600).

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS

Quarterly meetings of the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters are held at various locations around the State on the second Saturdays of March, June, September and December. Check the WAR web page for meeting announcements and repeater coordination info. Information: <http://www.wi-repeaters.org>.

YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Baraboo, WI

Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Room 18, Baraboo Civic Center at 124 Second Street. Information: <http://www.qsl.net/ytarc>

Notice: We are not liable for any errors, omissions, typographical errors, or misprints. Clubs are responsible for furnishing any changes or corrections which may be needed!

The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| April 07, 2001 | Oshkosh (Omro), WI |
| April 07, 2001 | St. Paul, MN |
| April 07, 2001 | Racine, WI |
| April 12, 2001 | Apple Valley, MN |
| April 14, 2001 | Madison, WI |
| April 14, 2001 | Blaine, MN |
| April 17, 2001 | Eden Prairie, MN |
| April 21, 2001 | Eau Claire, WI |
| April 21, 2001 | Loves Park, IL |
| April 21, 2001 | Milwaukee, WI (BE) |
| April 21, 2001 | Cottage Grove, MN |
| April 28, 2001 | Bloomington, MN |
| April 28, 2001 | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |
| April 28, 2001 | Tomahawk, WI |
| May 05, 2001 | Racine, WI |
| May 05, 2001 | Oshkosh (Omro), WI |
| May 05, 2001 | St. Paul, MN |
| May 10, 2001 | Apple Valley, MN |
| May 12, 2001 | Blaine, MN |
| May 12, 2001 | Madison, WI |
| May 12, 2001 | Appleton, WI |
| May 15, 2001 | Eden Prairie, MN |
| May 19, 2001 | La Crosse, WI |
| May 19, 2001 | Cottage Grove, MN |
| May 19, 2001 | Loves Park, IL |
| May 19, 2001 | Sheboygan, WI |
| May 26, 2001 | Bloomington, MN |
| May 26, 2001 | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |
| May 26, 2001 | Tomahawk, WI |
| June 02, 2001 | Oshkosh (Omro), WI |
| June 02, 2001 | St. Paul, MN |
| June 02, 2001 | Adams, WI |
| June 02, 2001 | Racine, WI |
| June 09, 2001 | Eau Claire, WI |
| June 09, 2001 | Madison, WI |
| June 09, 2001 | Blaine, MN |
| June 09, 2001 | Eau Claire, WI |
| June 12, 2001 | Eden Prairie, MN |
| June 14, 2001 | Apple Valley, MN |
| June 15, 2001 | Sioux City, IA |
| June 16, 2001 | Sioux City, IA |
| June 16, 2001 | Cottage Grove, MN |
| June 16, 2001 | Milwaukee, WI (BE) |
| June 16, 2001 | Loves Park, IL |
| June 23, 2001 | Bloomington, MN |
| June 30, 2001 | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |
| June 30, 2001 | Tomahawk, WI |
| July 07, 2001 | St. Paul, MN |
| July 07, 2001 | Oshkosh (Omro), WI |
| July 12, 2001 | Apple Valley, MN |
| July 14, 2001 | Blaine, MN |
| July 14, 2001 | Madison, WI |
| July 17, 2001 | Eden Prairie, MN |
| July 17, 2001 | Sheboygan, WI |
| July 21, 2001 | Cottage Grove, MN |
| July 21, 2001 | Loves Park, IL |
| July 28, 2001 | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |
| July 28, 2001 | Tomahawk, WI |
| July 28, 2001 | Bloomington, MN |
| August 10, 2001 | Sioux City, IA |
| August 18, 2001 | Appleton, WI |
| September 01, 2001 | Adams |
| September 01, 2001 | Racine, WI |
| September 15, 2001 | La Crosse, WI |
| September 15, 2001 | Sheboygan, WI |
| October 06, 2001 | Racine, WI |
| October 12, 2001 | Sioux City, IA |
| November 03, 2001 | Menomonie, WI |
| November 04, 2001 | Kaukauna, WI |
| November 20, 2001 | Sheboygan, WI |
| December 01, 2001 | Adams, WI |
| December 01, 2001 | Racine, WI |
| December 07, 2001 | Sioux City, IA |
| December 15, 2001 | La Crosse, WI |
| January 26, 2002 | Appleton, WI |

(Continued on page 11)

APRS in Central Wisconsin

Continued from front page

to the correct way to set up a station so as to keep QRM to a minimum on the single simplex frequency. To offer assistance in setting up the computer software and tnc's that may at one time been used strictly for packet now are going to be used a little differently to allow APRS data to flow to the computer screen.

The group started meeting on a regular basis and we invited any and all hams to come and learn more about APRS. We started an email discussion list and a web page to share information, and we put all the APRS software we could find on some CDRs so that others could easily install the software.

The Wisconsin Valley Radio Association (WVRA) used it for Badger State Winter Games and Wisconsin Special Olympics Winter Games. Several Hams had HT's and GPS units out on the Cross Country Ski course and were transmitting their locations

to the command center where they appeared on the computer screen. This allowed the computer operator to visually determine where on the course the last skier was located. The same principal can be applied to parades where hams with APRS units are located at the beginning and end of the parade. We are planning to use it for storm spotting where we can use current weather maps to position APRS tracker units in the most strategic position to monitor the severity of the approaching storm.

We will be using APRS this year for Dream Flight Wausau: the Space and Science Program in the Wausau School District. The focal point of the program is a specially outfitted school bus modified to look like a NASA space shuttle. The WVRA provides amateur radio voice and packet communications between mission control, the schools, and shuttle. The fifth graders in the program that take on Mission Control roles will also be able to monitor the location of the space shuttle, named Apollo Condor, via APRS as

it travels from school to school during the program.

The really exciting thing about this is that we will have an Internet Gateway in Wausau that will allow the transmitted location packets for the Shuttle to be relayed to an APRS server on the Internet. Anyone that has Internet access will be able to monitor the location of the Shuttle from his or her office, classroom or home. Hams across the world, knowing the call sign of the Shuttle, via the Internet could send simple APRS text messages to the Amateur operator on the Shuttle. Are we excited? You bet!

APRS is a fusion of amateur radio, Internet, and GPS technology. We've attracted quite a few Tech class hams that have otherwise fallen away from the hobby. APRS is an exciting mode for younger, active hams that like to go outdoors or travel with their GPS units. Local law enforcement agencies are also very interested in the capabilities of APRS for EOC and storm spotting applications. There's more to tell and more to learn. All you need to be part of the excitement is a 2 meter transceiver, a 1200 baud tnc and a 486 or better computer.

How to Get APRS up in running in your area

APRS is very well served in the Southern and Southeastern part of Wisconsin, but the rest of the state has a general lack of coverage. Anybody with a packet radio equipment can run APRS with the addition of some software. Here are some tips to get started.

1. Get the ARRL book *APRS Tracks, Maps and Mables* by Stan Horzepa, W1LOU. This is the best getting started guide there is. It has lots of information on the software available and setting up a station.
2. If you have an unused packet station, turn it into an APRS relay station. Since APRS is an unconnected protocol, relays and digipeaters are necessary to propagate the packets.
3. Do an APRS presentation at your club meeting. Several Powerpoint presentations are available on the web for your use, or contact an APRS user to do a presentation for you.
4. Use your local repeater to discuss APRS and to invite more hams to use the mode.
5. Join APRS discussion lists on the Internet such as APRSIG at www.tapr.org or the WVRA's APRS list <http://wvraaprs.listbot.com>. The members of these lists are more than willing to answer your questions.
6. Create an APRS steering committee for your area. Have regular meetings and invite anyone interested to come and discuss the mode with others.

Governor Scott McCallum proclaims Amateur Radio Operator Recognition Day

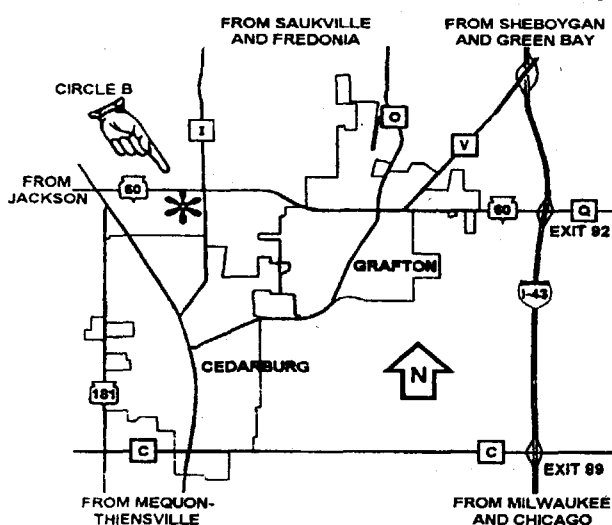
Read it at www.bsss.org

The Ozaukee Radio Club, Inc. presents its 23rd Annual Amateur Radio and Computer

SWAPFEST Cedarburg, WI

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2001
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

CIRCLE B RECREATION CENTER
Intersection of St. Hwy 60 and Ozaukee Cty I



Talk-in: 146.37/97 and 146.52

Advance Registration Form – 2001 Ozaukee Radio Club's Cedarburg Swapfest

Please send the following tickets by return mail in the ENCLOSED SASE:

- Admission tickets @ \$4.00 (same price at the door)
- Note: All persons entering the swapfest must have an admission ticket
- 4-foot tables @ \$5.00
- Power requested
- Return application if power is not available

NAME: _____ CALLSIGN: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Mail this form with your check and a SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED (BUSINESS SIZED) ENVELOPE to:
O.R.C. Swapfest Committee – W55 N865 Cedar Ridge Drive; Cedarburg, WI 53012

ARRL SANCTIONED
PLENTY OF FREE PARKING
FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS

Amateur license exams will be administered between 9:00 AM and 12:00 Noon. For pre-registration, send a postcard with your name, call, address, telephone number, and exam elements desired to:

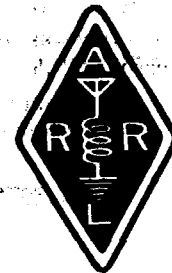
Badger Examiners
c/o Gary Sharbuno, W19M
5119 W. Willow Road
Brown Deer, WI 53223
(414) 355-0237

Bring the original PLUS a COPY of your current Amateur license plus another form of I.D.

RESERVE YOUR TABLES EARLY
Power availability limited - first come first served
(Bring your own duct tape to secure extension cords)

For further information, call Gene Szudrowitz
at (262) 377-6792 between 6:00 and 8:00 PM.

From the Section Manager



Don Michalski, W9IXG

SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG. BWN 3985 0600 W9RCW. BEN 3985 1200 KE9-VU. WSBN 3985 1715 K9FHI. WNN 3723 1800 KB9ROB. WSSN 3645 1830 N9BDL. WIN-E 3662 1900 WB9ICH. WIN-L 3662 2200 W9UW.

With deep regret, I wish to inform you that Robert R. Tlachac, WB9DFZ, recently passed away. Also, Jerry Fadness, W9GF, age 71. Jerry was a member of RRRC.

Our congratulations to Ernie Swanson, K9LO, for receiving the prestigious ARRL A-1 Operator award!

W9NN, Bob Baird, has received his ARRL certificate for being an amateur for 80 years! Bob has helped form the QCWA and is a charter member.

"Green Bay Professional Packet Radio" (GBPPR) is experimenting with new hi-tech digital communications. Check their projects out at <http://www.gbppr.org>.

We need more hams willing to experiment with new frontiers in communications!

9RN report for January has Wisconsin with 98% representation.

The National Weather Service spring 2001 severe weather spotter (two hour) class schedule is now posted at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mkx/2001-spotter.htm>. I strongly recommend that those interested in reporting storm information attend one of these free classes! Reservations, not required!! You can contact Rusty Kapela at rusty.kapela@noaa.gov or your local county Emergency Management Director for questions.

Cell phone mobile ban bill AB-202 would have little effect as written

Wisconsin Assembly bill AB-202, introduced on March 15, appears to be one that would have no effect on anyone other than people driving with a probationary license or instruction permit.

The Legislative Reference Bureau says:

"Current law prohibits inattentive driving. The driver of a motor vehicle may not be so engaged or occupied as to interfere with the safe driving of the vehicle. Violators may be required to forfeit not less than \$20 nor more than \$400.

"This bill prohibits a person from operating a motor vehicle while using a cellular or other mobile telephone, except to report an emergency regardless of whether use of the telephone interferes with the operation of the vehicle. However, this prohibition applies only to persons driving under an instruction permit or a probationary

license.

"A probationary license is, with certain restrictions, issued to all applicants for an original driver's license and remains in effect for two years from the date of the licensee's next birthday.

"Persons who violate this prohibition may be required to forfeit not less than \$20 nor more than \$40 for the first offense, and not less than \$50 nor more than \$100 for a 2nd or subsequent offense within one year."

The bill was introduced by Representatives Staskunas, Gard, Walker, Carpenter, Ainsworth, Ladwig, J. Lehman, Sykora, Plouff, Albers, Colon, and Boyle. Cosponsors are Senators Baumgart, Burke, Darling, and Rosenzweig.

The bill was referred to the Committee on Highway Safety.

Amateur Radio and public service:

A winning combination

By Tom Fuszard, KF9PU

With spring here and summer just around the corner, it's almost time for another season of charity walks and runs.

These public service events provide hams an excellent opportunity to use their equipment and skills in a way that benefits the local community. In turn, the public gets the chance to see us in action and further their understanding of amateur radio.

Depending on the size of your community, two or three dozen walks, runs, and rides may occur throughout the season. Of these, typically only a handful are large enough to warrant participation by amateur radio. How-

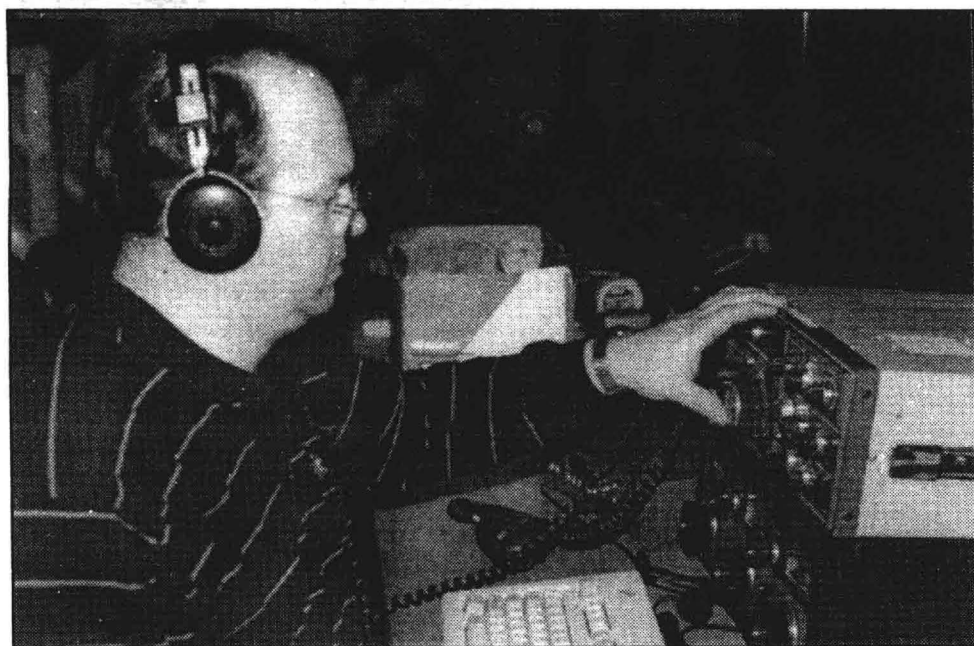
ever, they are great opportunities, and you should consider getting involved.

These events often require 15 to 20 ham volunteers, sometimes more. Hams assist the net control operator, ride in a SAG wagon or with a route captain, and man the rest stops. Each position is vital and gives you a chance to interact with event participants.

Those who prefer to walk or ride the course instead should consider taking along an H-T. Net control always appreciates an extra set of eyes on the route. This also provides you the opportunity to talk up amateur radio as you are pedaling or walking. The sight of your radio or antenna system can spark questions from other participants. Take a moment or two to explain amateur radio and how we are involved in the event.

Don't be surprised if you hear a hearty "thanks." Many of these riders and walkers know that amateur radio is assisting with the event; they just haven't met any hams up front. Your professionalism and enthusiasm can do wonders for our community and help ensure that we are asked to help out the following year.

For the latest information on upcoming special events, tune in to the information or public service net held in your community.



Doing it in the WQP

A semi-determined group of four worked the Wisconsin QSO Party from the shack of Steve Schulze, N9UDO, who is pictured at (gasp!) The CW rig. Not to worry, he did not actually work any cw. Enjoying the operation were Steve, Wayne Burgess, Bill Hommell, KA9QFJ, and Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, who did manage a batch of CQ contacts. Next year? You bet, and we will get serious!

Photo by K9ZZ

Take the bus to Dayton? That's fare!

Mark Leibelt (W9LTA) is putting together a fantastic opportunity for all Wisconsin and Northwestern Illinois ham radio operators and electronic buffs, everyone wants to go to HamVention® 2001, in Dayton Ohio May 17 thru the 20th. But, no one cares to drive there from here. Mark has made arrangements for a charter bus complete with restroom, to make the trip. The bus will be equipped with a 2-meter ham rig and if someone is willing to set it up, a HF rig can be rigged as long as no permanent change occurs to the bus! So, Mark continued to search out the best deals and found a hotel that would give the group a great discount!

HamVention® 2001 promises to be the best yet. The activities, forums and exhibits offer an exciting lineup, not to mention the indoor and outdoor swapfests! Plus arranged tours to places like Wright Patterson Air Force Museum (Friday- FREE), Boonshoft Museum of Discovery (Saturday \$18.00 includes lunch), and other places of interest.

The forums are worth the trip, just for the knowledge

and information! Join in on topics like weather satellites, contests, ATV, SSTV, fox hunting, a special presentation by the Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers, and new this year are forums covering topics such as VSWR, Hi-Fi SSB, PSK31, and grounding techniques/lightning protection. And did I mention the swapfests?

So it's gotta cost a bundle, right? No!

Mark has it figured this way: The bus will leave Thursday from the Adams/Mauston area, travel south and make pick ups along the way to Madison. If there is a greater response from the Milwaukee area, that's the way the bus will go, otherwise its down through Janesville and Rockford. Then next stop, Dayton! Hotel rooms at the New Motel 6 in Richmond Indiana (1/2 hour away from HamVention®). Stay Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, leave on Sunday.

Mark has the HamVention tickets included too!!!

So the cost for all this? \$189.00 double, \$279.00

Silent Key

J. S. "Stu" Gurske, K9EYY, Lodi, passed away Friday, March 9, 2001, at age 75.

Stu had been licensed for 46 years, and had been a member of Air Force MARS. He was best known for his long-time interest in weather satellite reception.

He authored a number of articles for various magazines, and produced an extensive line of products for use in satellite reception, which were sold through his company, Swagur Enterprises.

He also operated a 2-meter FM repeater from his hilltop QTH.

Stu was a veteran of WWII, serving in the Navy aboard the U.S.S. Ticonderoga aircraft carrier in the Pacific.

After the war, he graduated from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He worked as an insurance examiner for the State of Wisconsin, and then worked at Cuna Mutual Insurance Society for 27 years, retiring as Director of Research and Development.

Stu is survived by his wife of almost 53 years, Lois (WB9YXU), and several nieces and nephews. No services were held.

Memorials are suggested to the Lodi Band, c/o Bob Weber, Weber's Bakery, 161 South Main Street, Lodi, WI 53555.

SUBMARINES ON THE AIR: UPDATE

Once a year, the Submarine Veterans Amateur Radio Association sponsors one of the most unusual operating events: Submarines on the Air. During the 2000 event, more than 50 subs were on the air around the world.

For 2001, the list at press time shows 34, and more will likely be added.

Submarines on the Air is always the last full weekend in April. This year, that's from 0600Z April 28 until 2359Z April 29.

Among subs which will be "radio active" are Manitowoc's *Cobia*, with the ManCoRad Radio Club and Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, doing the operating, and a German U-505 at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. Last year, ManCoRad placed first in the number of other subs worked, and the U-505, operated by Hamfesters, came in second. It's the second consecutive time ManCoRad has been number one.

Subs in Belgium, Germany, Holland, and Russia will be operating, and others may be added.

The frequencies for the event are:

CW: 3.543; 3.743; 7.043; 14.043; 21.043; 21.143; 28.043; 28.143; and 50.043.

SSB: 3.943; 7.243; 14.243; 21.343; 28.343; 28.443; 50.243.

Scoring: Museum ships and submarines working any amateur station: 1 point. Work any submarine in the same country: 2 points. Work any submarine in another country: 3 points. Work any submarine, another country/continent: 4 points.

CW contacts have a multiplier of 2.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.sprintmail.com/~jaf>

or email

jaf@sprintmail.com



SSB

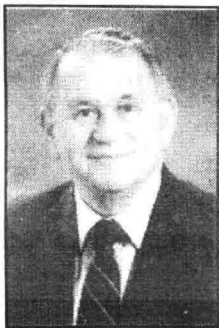
SELL SWAP BUY

OUR WANT ADS GET RESULTS

FOR SALE: PK-232MBX Pakratt multi-mode data controller. With cables, manual, and software. \$90/offer. George, W9RTP, stanekgb@jvlnet.com or 608.884.4820.

The Computer Corner

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR • 105 Martin Drive
Port Washington, WI 53074-9654
(262) 284-9346
skaplan@mcw.edu



No. 89. The Windows 98 Startup Disk

Last month's column introduced the concept of a bootable CD-ROM disk, and I mentioned that you needed to create a startup floppy disk before you could prepare a bootable CD-ROM. This month we will explore why you need that floppy and how to prepare it, even if you do not intend to prepare bootable CD-ROMs. Furthermore, I will provide you with a few hints on how to do some things that are not covered in the Windows literature. We will assume you are using the upgraded Windows program that Microsoft should have given to its customers free – Windows 98. They should have given it to us free because it is mainly an upgrade to correct bugs in Windows 95, rather than being anything really new. However, that is a different soapbox topic.

What exactly is a Win98 Startup Disk? It is nothing more than a bootable disk that will let you access your computer system when the usual methods fail. It is intended to get your machine going in case the files on the hard drive have become so corrupted or infected with a virus that your machine will not start. It contains those files necessary to boot your machine to DOS 7, the DOS version that underlies both Win95 and 98. In DOS days, we called the Startup Disk a Boot Disk, System Disk or Rescue Disk.

If you do find yourself in the position of having a system that will not start properly, a Startup Disk is an absolute necessity. It will enable you to recover from your predicament. No one should be without one. It is an item you should prepare and hope you never need to use it.

To make a standard Win98 Startup Disk, you will need a 1.44 Mb floppy as well as your Win98 CD-ROM. Click **Start**, **Settings**, **Control Panel**, **Add/Remove Programs** and click the **Startup Disk** tab. Click the **Create Disk** button. Windows will want the Win98 CD-ROM in the CD-ROM drive and a floppy in the A: drive. Most of the time will be spent formatting the floppy, with less time devoted to copying files to it from the CD-ROM. When the process is finished, the A: drive light will go out and the Startup Disk has been created. Close all windows and remove the floppy long enough to label it. Put it back in the A: drive so that you can examine it with Explorer, or better yet, from an MS-DOS Prompt.

The finished floppy contains 24 files, listed below, although you may see only 21. Three files are hidden from your view, unless you have instructed Windows to show all files. Furthermore, the extensions (.SYS, .CAB, .EXE and the like) may not show if you have not instructed Win to

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| *ASPI2DOS.SYS | COMMAND.COM | *FLASHPT.SYS |
| *ASPI4DOS.SYS | CONFIG.SYS | HIMEM.SYS |
| *ASPI8DOS.SYS | DRVSPACE.BIN | IO.SYS |
| *ASPI8U2.SYS | EBD.CAB | MSDOS.SYS |
| *ASPICD.SYS | EBD.SYS | *OAKCDROM.SYS |
| AUTOEXEC.BAT | EXTRACT.EXE | RAMDRIVE.SYS |
| *BTCDROM.SYS | FDISK.EXE | README.TXT |
| *BTDOSM.SYS | FINDRAMD.EXE | SETRAMD.BAT |

Files shown in boldface are hidden. * indicates CD-ROM driver

show extensions (you should!). IO.SYS is the kingpin – the only file that actually boots the system. Fully nine of the remaining files are device drivers (* in the table) for various brands and models of CD-ROM drives. Probably over 95% of all CD-ROM drives on the market today can be set up by one of these nine files. Most important, the files set up the drive for use right from DOS. You do not need to enter Windows to read data from a CD with this startup disk, which is a valuable feature, indeed.

So what else does this disk do? Notice the file that has a .CAB extension. That is just like a ZIP file – it contains a dozen files within it. The list is shown below:

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| ATTRIB.EXE | HELP.BAT |
| CHKDSK.EXE | MSCDEX.EXE |
| DEBUG.EXE | RESTART.COM |
| EDIT.COM | SCANDISK.EXE |
| EXT.EXE | SCANDISK.INI |
| FORMAT.COM | SYS.COM |

By the way, the EDIT.COM file is a sort of handy text editor. Unlike previous versions of EDIT.COM, this one is stand-alone and does not need QBASIC to be present. You might want to have that file around for other purposes. Toward that end, copy EBD.CAB and EXTRACT.EXE to an empty subdirectory on your hard drive. Then give the command EXTRACT EBD.CAB *.* (underscores represent spaces) and the files will be extracted. You can copy EDIT.COM to any floppy and have a nice text editor handy.

Well, how can all those files be available? If extracted from the .CAB file, they take up far too much space (almost 400,000 bytes) to exist on the Startup Disk, which only has 250,368 bytes of free space. Well, Microsoft has used an old technique to get by this problem. When booting from the Startup Disk, the AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS files have been written to create a ramdrive. A ramdrive is a portion of memory that is set up to act exactly like a hard drive. The files set up a small (2-Mb) hard drive in memory and extract all the files in the cabinet (EBD.CAB) to it. It works like a charm, though you should realize that when the power is turned off, the ramdrive and all its

contents go poof! Nevertheless, while the power is on, it works beautifully, and is MUCH faster than any physical hard drive since there are no mechanical parts that need to move. The drive letter of this pseudo-hard drive depends upon your system and its condition, but you can test it by booting with the Startup Disk and then looking for a new drive letter with the files listed above on it. On my system, which normally has a C:, D:, E: and F: plus two CD-ROM drives G: and H:, the ramdrive became new hard drive G:, pushing the CD-ROM drives to H: and I:. If a hard drive has completely failed, the ramdrive may well wind up as the C: drive.

There you have it. A Startup Disk that has all the tools you need to fix problems when they occur. I have not told you how to use all the tools, but that is the subject for a complete course in Troubleshooting and Repair. There are good books on the subject, though, and if you study them, you can fix many problems yourself. That will have to do for now, until someone comes out with an operating system that can diagnose and repair its own ills (that WILL happen in the future). Until then, Happy Computing!

OZARES 2X change of guard

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, Wisconsin Section Emergency Coordinator

Two Emergency Coordinators were honored for past service at the Ozaukee County ARES/RACES meeting of 22 February 2001.

Dave Barrow, N9UNR, received kudos for service from January 1999 to January 2000, while Abe Galonski's fine service from January 2000 to January 2001 was acknowledged. Both were presented with a certificate for leadership and public service from Bill Stolte (N9VBJ), Ozaukee's Emergency Management Director, and an ARRL Emergency Communications Commendation

from Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR), SEC and the state's RACES Chief Radio Officer.

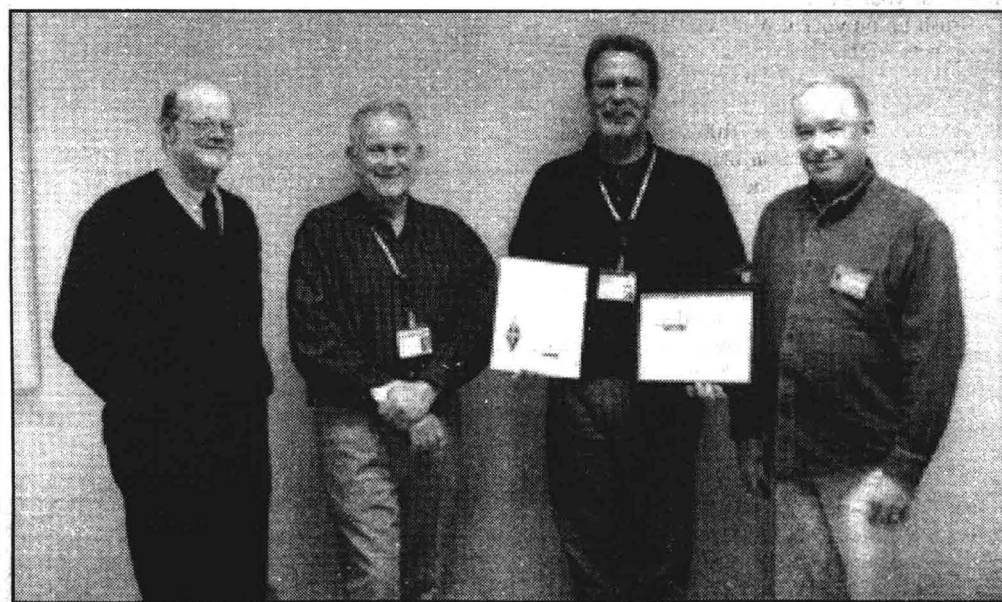
Pizza was served to the entire ARES/RACES membership in honor of the occasion, followed by (as always) a training session.

Half the group had an overview of the Incident Command System, while the other half reviewed proper use of the radio equipment in the Emergency Communications Center.

Photos courtesy of Ray Meyer, N9PBY



Left to right are Bill Stolte, N9VBJ; Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR; Dave Barrow, N9UNR (Ozaukee County EC from January 1999 to January 2000); and Jon Gilmore, KB9RHZ, Ozaukee County's current EC.



Here are all the same fellers except one: third from left is Abe Galonski, KC1W, who was Ozaukee County's EC until January, 2001.

Ham Vention by bus

Continued from page 5

single. I couldn't believe it either. Using your own car would be over \$300.00 alone using the IRS tax allowance of .34 a mile!

So contact Mark at mleibelt@maqs.net or phone: 608-339-9090 and leave a message by April 20, 2001 to reserve your seat. - By Nick Segina, WB9YKK, Segina@maqs.net

Badger State Smoke Signals in no way guarantees anything offered for this trip to Dayton. BSSS is in no way connected to this offer. We print it here for our readers to consider.

PARTICIPATING CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Dean R. Herriges, KB9ROB, Secretary
W370 S9590 Highway 67 • Eagle, WI 53119

WISCONSIN NETS

| Net | WNA | Freq. | UTC | CST | Manager |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----------|------|------|---------|
| BWN | Yes | 3985 | 1100 | 0600 | W9RCW |
| BEN | Yes | 3985 | 1700 | 1200 | KE9VU |
| WSBN | Yes | 3985 | 2230 | 1730 | K9FHI |
| WNN | Yes | 3723 | 2300 | 1800 | KB9ROB |
| WSSN | Yes | 3645 | 2330 | 1830 | N9BDL |
| WIN/E | Yes | 3662 | 0000 | 1900 | WB9ICH |
| WIN/L | Yes | 3662 | 0300 | 2200 | W9UW |
| RCRA | No | 01/61 | 0030 | 1930 | KA9OMC |
| (Mondays CDT) (Menomonie Area) | | | | | |
| Gr. Bay | No | 72/12 | 0245 | 2145 | WB9NRK |
| (Green Bay Area) | | | | | |
| ARES | No | 4.65/5.25 | 0200 | 2100 | |
| (South East/South Central Wisconsin) | | | | | |

Wisconsin Section STM Report

STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY February 2001

Good Morning, Mr. Phelps.

You have challenges ahead of you. As an amateur, be professional. Take pride in doing a job right. Pay attention to how the oldtimers do it. Listen to innovations from newcomers to the hobby. Learn all you can. Get the call of other stations exactly right -- the prefix, too. Learn the names of those who check in on the nets you frequent. There's a QNI list on the web at www.wna.eboard.com or I'll be pleased to send you one via Email attachment or U.S. Postal. Operators enjoy being recognized by name -- just like normal people.

Count the check on messages you send, not because there's a great danger of the receiving station getting the text wrong, but because it's good practice.

Volunteer to be a net control station once in a while. It's fun; it's considerate; it's more good training. Hints on how to be an NCS are on the web bulletin board, too. Or just ask any net manager or your STM.

Brush up on your CW by checking into the training nets -- The Wisconsin Novice Net (3723 KHz at 0000Z) or the Wisconsin Slow Speed Net (3645 KHz at 0030Z). Or try the Wisconsin Intrastate Net (3662 KHz at 0100Z and 0400Z).

There's a good reason that traffic handling has been made part of the ARRL Emergency Communications course. Skills of an NTS traffic handler transfer well to emergency situations. Knowing handling instructions, how to get fills in a text, or how to use ARRL numbered texts can truly enhance the efficiency needed during an emergency. If you take the course and generate some traffic, don't stop there. Sharpen your skills with practice.

Finally, your mission, if you choose to accept it, (and even if you don't) is to advocate participation in traffic nets at your next club meeting. Your STM will certainly not disavow any knowledge of your action. In fact, please assure operators that their equipment will not automatically self-destruct if they check in to a net. Good luck.

73, K9LGU, STM

WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY SUMMARY

| NET | QNI | QTC | QTR | SSNS | NM |
|--------|------|------|------|------|-----------------|
| BWN | 1097 | 1392 | 2100 | 28 | W9IHW for W9RCW |
| BEN | 554 | 49 | 913 | 28 | KE9VU |
| WSBN | 640 | 89 | 863 | 28 | K9FHI |
| WNN | 173 | 15 | 315 | 28 | KB9ROB |
| WSSN | 280 | 23 | 342 | 28 | N9BDL |
| WIN/E | 220 | 90 | 293 | 28 | WB9ICH |
| WIN/L | 193 | 45 | 286 | 28 | W9UW |
| TOTALS | 3157 | 1703 | 5212 | 198 | |

Badger State Smoke Signals thanks the many volunteer writers, photographers, and others who all help to keep this newspaper informative and interesting to read. Without them, this newspaper could not and would not exist.

Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Rich Nesbitt, N9WPH, Secretary

P.O. Box 363 • Wausau, WI 54402

Six Meter Repeater: 51.19 Input/52.89 Output

Meeting Minutes 6 March 2001 State Patrol Headquarters

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m. by President Kim Kunze - N9SDL.

Program: "Weather Spotting" by Mike, KB9DED. A video was shown followed by an open discussion. Myron, KB9STB, announced there will be a weather spotting class taught on 3/26/01 at the Salvation Army's conference room (downstairs) at 6:30 p.m. Contact KB9DED or KB9STB if you are interested in the class.

Members present: N9SDL, N9WPH, W9WW, N9NMH, KB9DED, N9MEA, KB9VBR, KB9PVI, N9IAB, N9UAG, K9MCZ, KB9STB, N9OVS, N9NRC, K9AEG, N9SDI, N9LIA, KA9PKW, N3FDE, N9TTA, N9PHC, WA9NBC, KB9RXA, KB9RXB, KB9YDP, WD9CPY, KB9OPQ, N0MKW, N9NRA, N9MPD.

Secretary's Report as published in *Badger State Smoke Signals*. Motion to accept: W9WW. 2nd: N9NMH.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept: KB9STB. 2nd: N9NRA.

Old Business

1. Club's pneumatic mast: At the Club meeting in February, Mike N9IAB made a motion for the mast be separated from the existing mount so that it would be easier for him to attach it his truck for those times when he needs to use it. Second by N9NRA. The motion was tabled with the understanding the WVRA Board would discuss it at the Board meeting and bring their recommendation back to membership in March. The Board's recommendation was:

- The mast and base should always be co-located.
- When stored, the mast should always be installed on the base.
- The mast should be ready for rapid deployment, bolts tight.
- Movement of the mast should be a 2-person operation, because of the weight - more than 200 pounds.

N9IAB clarified his motion. Motion was defeated.

1. APRS Update: A steering committee is still being formed. The group will consist of at least 5 members. Contact Kim, N9SDL, if you are interested (n9sdl@arrrl.net). The Club was asked to write and article about APRS for the *Badger State Smoke Signals*. N9SDL and KB9VBR will jointly write the article.

2. Dream Flight Update: The 10th annual event will occur on 4/30-5/04. Training dates are 3/27, 4/2, 4/9, 4/10 from 1830-2000 hours at Rib Mountain Elementary School. Volunteers are needed for the training and during the week of Dream Flight. Contact N9SDL (n9sdl@arrrl.net) or KB9DED (mwild@dwave.net) if interested. The shuttle bus will not be used to transport the 5th graders this year; they will ride in a separate school bus. APRS will be used to track the shuttle.

3. Field Day Update: June 24th at Sunnyvale Park, off Hwy 29W. ARRL is selling T-shirts for \$10 and pins for \$5 to commemorate the event. Contact N9SDL if you are interested. N9NRA asked if we want to have Channel 10 film the

event for later broadcasting. Members agreed. Someone suggested we make an announcement about the event on the Public Access Channel.

4. WVRA's Webpage Update: www.dwave.net/~WVRA.

5. Foundation for Amateur Radio: The foundation is seeking qualified applicants for Grants and Scholarships for the 2001-2002 year.

6. 444.1 Net: Thursdays at 9 p.m. Contact KB9VBR or KB9STB if you want to volunteer as a net control operator.

7. Trailer Update: N9NMH should know more in 2 weeks. It needs some work - painting, tires, and lights. Looking for donated services, contact Matt at (mbaumann@dwave.net).

8. Amateur Radio Classes: Seeking volunteers to help teach a 12-week program in spring. An instructor's manual will be available. Contact N9SDL (n9sdl@arrrl.net) if interested.

New Business

1. New club meeting place: Marshfield Clinic - Wausau Center Cafeteria. Members should park and enter from the employee parking lot west of the building (28th St and Plaza Dr).

2. Madison Hamfest: 04/08/01 at 8 a.m., \$5 at the door, \$4 in advance. N9NMH was collecting for advance tickets.

3. Multiple Sclerosis Walk-a-thon: In Wausau on 04/22/01. Contact N9LIA (n9lia@pcpros.net) if interested. Time commitment should be from 9a.m. to 2:30 p.m. APRS will be used.

4. High-speed node link between Timms Hill and Rudolph: Al Schnepf, N0GMJ, from Ogema, WI offered to loan the following equipment: Kantronics KPC 9612 dual port tnc w/ 8.2N firmware, Motorola Mitrec 2 meter 60 watt transceiver, Motorola Mitrec 440MHz 40 watt transceiver, and power supply.

He offers the use of the 1200-baud port and 2 meter radio for APRS as long as he could use the 9600-baud port and 440 radio for a node point. Whoever accepts the offer would need to supply a location, antenna and feedline. The Club needs coverage for APRS west of Wausau. The town of Edgar was mentioned as a possible location. The members thought Al should discuss the offer with Rich, KC9NW. KB9VBR will discuss the matter further with Al.

5. Marshfield Clinic - Wausau Center invited the Club to their open house on 09/23/01. The Spirit of Marshfield will not be coming. Contact KB9DED (mwild@dwave.net) if interested.

6. WVRA Board Election: April's meeting.

7. Club Dues: April's meeting (single \$25/year, family \$35/year).

8. ARRL membership dues: Increase to \$39 in July.

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm. Motion: Jim, N9SDI, 2nd Jack, N9LIA.

Next meeting will be 04/01/2001 at the Marshfield Clinic - Wausau Center (formerly known as the Wausau Medical Center) cafeteria at 7 p.m. Park and enter from the employee parking lot on the west side. Program: WVRA Board Election.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Nesbitt, N9WPH
WVRA Secretary

From the Section Manager

Continued from page 4

Our STM, K9LGU, is giving presentations to clubs on traffic handling procedures. If interested, contact Denny, K9LGU, at

k9lg@arrrl.net or let me know.

Several Hams in the section have enrolled in the 2nd ARRL Emergency Communicator course. Listen for future openings on the RACES net Sundays at 8 A.M. on 3993.5 MHz.

73.
Don W9IXG
(608) 274-1886

Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club

Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ

P. O. Box 452

Abbotsford, WI 54405-0452

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, April 5th at 7 p.m. in the Emergency Government meeting room located in the basement of the sheriff's annex to the Taylor County Courthouse, corner of 2nd and Ogden Sts., Medford, WI. Talk-in on the 147.15 Medford repeater (+600 kHz) or 146.52 MHz simplex.

CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1, 2001 CLUB MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:18 PM by N9GHZ, club President. In attendance were N9GHZ, N9UBQ, AA9LE and WD9FWP.

Treasurer's report by N9UBQ, club Treasurer. Those paying their 2001 club dues and/or club BSSS subscriptions at the meeting included WD9FWP, AB9AG and N9GHZ. N9UBQ also advised that N9GEN had paid his 2001 dues at an earlier date. Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Motion by N9GHZ, seconded by WD9FWP, to change the autopatch code on the 147.15 KB9-OBX repeater effective 4-1-2001, and to give out the new access code to only paid club members as of that date. Motion carried on a voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

WD9FWP reported on the status of the equipment that was donated to the club by Rich Marcott's widow. The Archer code practice oscillator was tested and is in working condition. The side swipe keyer was not tested, but a physical inspection of it reveals that it could use some work. The Drake 2B HF receiver works on 2 different bands for sure. Ernie cleaned it up quite a bit.

AA9LE also noted that he is still in possession of a code practice oscillator and key that were donated to the club by Jim Eggebrecht, W9PKP, formerly of Colby.

Motion by N9GHZ, seconded by WD9FWP, to have the club sell the Drake 2B HF receiver and the side swipe keyer, with first preference given to current club members. Motion carried on a voice vote. N9GHZ and AA9LE will do some research on the current value of the Drake 2B and the keyer to get some idea of what price to ask for those items.

NEW BUSINESS

It was reported that Pastor Roy Williams, WB0HMS, has moved from Medford, Wisconsin to accept a calling to Westbrook, Minnesota. He has donated, to the club, a Butternut HF6V-X HF vertical antenna, which is presently being stored at the residence of AA9LE. It is in working condition and needs only a minimal amount of work.

Motion by N9GHZ, seconded by WD9FWP, to have the club sell the Butternut HF6V-X antenna, with first preference given to current club members. Motion carried on a voice vote.

N9UBQ, Emergency Management Director for the Taylor County Office of Emergency Management, announced that his department is in the process of planning for a hazardous materials tabletop exercise to be held in Lublin. The next planning meeting for the exercise will be on Monday, March 5th at 7 p.m. at the old school house and they would like to have an ARES or other ham radio representative present at the meeting. Despite the short notice, an attempt will be made to find someone to attend the meeting.

N9UBQ also announced that Severe Weather Awareness Week in Wisconsin is set for April 16-21 this year.

N9GHZ announced that Todd Shea, Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the La Crosse National Weather Service office, which has warning responsibilities for both Taylor and Clark Counties, has now earned his ham radio license and his callsign is KB9YXS. The lead forecaster at the La Crosse office is also now a licensed ham, with the callsign KB9YXT. SKYWARN training will be held on April 10th at the Medford High School, for Taylor County, and on April 23rd, at the Greenwood Fire Hall, for Clark County.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

TAYLOR/CLARK COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES) NEWS

Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ
ARES Emergency Coordinator

Don't forget to try to check into the weekly ARES net held Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. on the Medford repeater (147.75/147.15). If the repeater is down or not functioning properly, alternate frequencies, in order, are 147.15 MHz simplex and 146.52 MHz simplex. You're also encouraged to volunteer for net control duty for the net.

Radio communications services were provided by the Clark and Taylor County Amateur Radio Emergency Service for the 2001 Perkinstown Snowshoe Tramp Races and Tours held on Saturday, January 20, 2001 at Perkinstown, Wisconsin. The following Amateur Radio operators participated:

- 1) N9GEN - net control station at P-Town Inn
- 2) N9RRF - aid station and trail sweep assistance
- 3) N9GHZ - positioned along race route
- 4) N9MHV - positioned along race route

No Amateur Television was attempted this year, primarily due to time constraints, but it will be attempted again for 2002.



SHEBOYGAN County Amateur Radio Club

Sky Borgenhagen, N9XRU, Secretary
N6466 Plank Circle • Glenbeulah WI 53023

2-Meter Repeater: 147.06 Output

The February meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the club President, Steve, N9TRK. There were ten members present.

The SCARC meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month in the Red Cross building at 2032 Erie Ave. in Sheboygan.

Club treasurer Mike, K9SJ, gave a brief report encouraging and thanking members for timely payment of dues.

Steve, N9TRK, gave a rundown of the upcoming events the club will be participating in this year. Members discussed past events and operations at various community events. Steve will be preparing this year's event calendar for SCARC and will send it out to all via ShebHams.

Steve, AA9SJ, opened discussion about a club call sign. The club has not had one in the past and some members feel this would be a valuable addition to the club.

Suggestions were made for matching the paneling needed to complete the radio operations room. Lighting options were also discussed.

The matter of an insurance coverage review was introduced by Mike, K9SJ. The consensus was that it would be best to have it coincide with the club equipment inventory once the radio operations room is completed.

VLS licensing, opportunity for weather spotter training, and the annual club dinner were briefly mentioned.

The officers meeting scheduled for the 4th Tuesdays of the month was confirmed to be held via simplex on 2M. The frequency 147.42 will be used.

The remainder of the meeting was informal. Additional issues of B.S.S.S., back issues of QST and other literature were made available to attendees by N9TRK.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Net Schedule

The SCARC 2 Meter net meets Monday

nights at 8:00 p.m. on 147.060, PL107.2 +. This is a fun net and all are welcome to join us. Any members willing to take net control for one or more nights should contact Steve, N9TRK.

Saturday Morning Breakfasts

The Saturday morning Sheboygan hams breakfasts are held at the following venues:

1st - Jumes in Sheboygan

2nd - Family Restaurant in Cleveland

3rd - Jumping Jacks at Kohler Sports Core

4th - Park View Restaurant, County PP in Sheboygan Falls

5th - Hill Farm Restaurant, County V and OK in Sheboygan

Email List

If you use e-mail, consider signing up on the Sheboygan Hams mailing list. Simply submit your e-mail address to:

<julian@bongo.tele.com>

All e-mail sent to <shebham@tele.com> will be forwarded to all listed subscribers. Thanks again, N6ARE for providing this wonderful mail server for SCARC use.

Club Postal Mailing address

SCARC, PO Box 1282, Sheboygan, WI 53081-1282.

Respectfully Submitted:
Sky Borgenhagen,
N9XRU

Mancorad Radio Club

Theresa Hartlaub, KB9KXE,
Secretary

P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI
54221-0204

2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output



The March 2001 meeting of the Mancorad Radio Club was held March 14th at the bank. President Fred (W6BSF) called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The February minutes were approved as reported in the *Badger State Smoke Signals* by motions made by Red (N9GHE) and Denise (N4WGK). Our club's treasurer, Roger (W9NPX) gave the treasurer's report which was approved by motions by Bob (KB9INK) and Dick (N9QFY).

Fred reported on a public hearing that will be held on 3/19/01 at the city hall, council chambers regarding new fees the city would like to assess to new aerial and tower construction. Red (N9GHE) and Fred have already spoken to the city planner, David Less. Our opinion is that ham operators should be exempt. Any one wishing to speak to the council should come that night. Fred would like a good showing from the club also.

There will be a lot of events coming up this spring and summer to keep club members busy. The first one is the 5th annual sub event, held on April 28th and 29th. Set up will be on Friday afternoon, with broadcasting to begin at 8:00 Saturday and 9:00 Sunday. Anyone interested in participating should contact Fred. As always, the more participants we have the better our chances of winning. Once again the Chicago club has issued a challenge to us. Also this year, some boy scouts will be spending Saturday night on the sub. Anyone interested from the club can also sleep over. They request that a short program on ham radio be given.

There will be a Smelt-a-thon and Bike-a-thon held in Kewaunee on May 19th and 20th. Jim Parma is coordinating this event. Operators will

be needed along the bike routes. More to come on this.

The club has again been asked to participate in the 9th Annual Leukemia Bike-a-thon. It will be held July 21st and 22nd. We would again pick up the bikers at Hika Park and follow them to the UW-Manitowoc on Saturday where they will spend the night. Sunday morning they head out for Point Beach State Park and up to Potawatomi State Park. As always, the more members who can help out the better. Steve (N9PBL) is coordinating this.

The Lighthouse Event will be held August 3rd and 4th in Two Rivers. Ron (WS9X) is contacting the Coast Guard in regard to the type of equipment we can set up and location. Please keep this one in mind.

Fred also reported that there will be another nuclear drill held on Tuesday, July 31st. This will be a full scale exercise with Kewaunee Nuclear plant. Anyone is welcome to help. Problems that occurred during the last drill were discussed.

With all the events coming up there will be no Field Day this year. Fred will be sending out a newsletter covering all these events. Please consider participating in some or all of these worthy events.

The club will move to its new club shack in May. We must be out by June 1st. Fred has donated a refrigerator and Denise a clock. Thank you both for your generosity. Fred had a sketch of the floor plan for all to see.

A discussion was held on continuing the highway clean up project. Our area is Hwy 42, from Tapawingo Road to Nuclear Road. It should

Continued on page 9

Lakeshore Repeater Association

147.270 MHz • Racine, Wisconsin

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO • 5400 Six Mile Road
Racine, WI 53402-9741 • wa9jmo@wi.net

The Repeater's second quarterly meeting of the year will be held in the lower classroom at the Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Avenue in Racine on Tuesday, April 24th beginning at 7:30 p.m. A 6 p.m. ARES meeting will precede the Repeater's get together.

Lakeshore is the host to a simulated weather net every Wednesday at 8 p.m. on 147.270 MHz. At its conclusion (about 8:20 p.m. local) the net control station activates a swap net for Amateur Radio and computer equipment. All licensed Amateurs are invited to list items for sale, trade or want. Please stop by to participate in our simulated weather endeavor and hang around for the swap net.

Our Secretary, Fern Fisher, W9LCJ, is still under the weather at this writing, but will hopefully be able to join us at the meeting. I'm sure words of cheer would be most appreciated - Fern Fisher, W9LCJ, 1636 Grange Avenue, Racine, WI 53405.

The annual Racine Lutheran High School Walk-a-thon will be held on Friday, May 4, 2001

from 7:15 a.m. until about 10 a.m. We staff 12 communication positions for their outing and always enjoy our effort in this activity. Most of the communicators return each year, but I do have an opening for one or two others. If you have an HT, a few hours to spare on Friday, May 4th in the morning, and would like to join our little group, please give me a call at (262) 639-7327 or drop me a note via email to

wa9jmo@wi.net

73, Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO, President,
Lakeshore Repeater Association

Thank You
for reading *Badger State
Smoke Signals*

Quarter Century Wireless Association Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO
5400 Six Mile Road
Racine, WI 53402



David Whitham, K9DQ, (at right in top photo) was welcomed as Chapter 162's newest and second youngest member and presented with his "official" QCWA Chapter name badge at our March 19th meeting. Dave brings extensive experience in the field of DXing that should add some additional flavoring to our annual Field Day outing.

Herb Ladwig, W9PHJ, (at right in bottom photo) was recognized for his 60-years as an Amateur Radio Operator as Chapter President Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO, presented QCWA's certificate attesting that milestone to him.

This year we are the Convention host for the 2001 QCWA annual conference; Chapter 162 will air QCWA's international club call, W2MM, in the April 7th and October 6th 2001 QSO parties. We expect to have a lot of fun and experience what it is like to be the object of a "pile-up" - as the club call host, our contacts are worth three multiplier points. We hope to operate both SSB and CW on the HF bands, time and operators permitting, for most of the 24-hour periods.

Our Chapter has been asked to provide communications for the annual Racine Lutheran High School 10-K Walk-a-Thon. Our communicators will work in teams with the school's seven

route check-point staff, two will pair with teachers and drive the walk area, one will assist in the school, another will walk with the last group of students, and one Ham will be stationed at the mid-point McDonalds to keep the walkers on track. A truly enjoyable community project our gang of participants looks forward to annually on the first Friday in May.

Our Anniversary luncheon will be held at Old Country Buffet in Racine, 4901 Washington Avenue (in the Shopko mall) at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 22nd. Enter the restaurant, pay for your meal, and meet the group in the restaurant's back room.

I am happy to say Fern Fisher, W9LCJ, is back home. She is regaining her strength and has been doing a little walking. Great news!

And Gladys (Bob, W0WLN) Jensen, who was also in the hospital, spend about two-weeks at home convalescing, is now up driving. Super, Gladys! Things seem to be perking up. Hopefully Fern and Gladys will be able to join in our Chapter's 14th Anniversary celebration.

73,
Larry McCalvy,
QCWA, Chapter 162 President



The 2001 Great Circus Train

The 2001 Great Circus Train will load in Baraboo July 6, and make its three-day run to Milwaukee July 7 - 9. It's hoped that special event station W9D will be operating; that call was chosen to honor an early Circus World Museum benefactor, the late Wilbur Deppe of Baraboo. The route will be partly the same and partly different this year. When we have the route information, we'll run a map here in BSSS.

SPECIAL EVENT OPERATION SCHEDULED IN APRIL

U.S.S. Wisconsin Radio Club/N4WIS gets permanent home



This "porthole" shot of the battleship U.S.S. Wisconsin was taken by Ron Young, W8RJL.

Last November, when the battleship U.S.S. Wisconsin (BB-64) was berthed at the Nauticus naval museum at Norfolk, Virginia, The U.S.S. Wisconsin Radio Club club was on the air for four days, with its call sign N4WIS.

The club was started by "Bus" Etheridge, K4IX. The club applied for its own call, and, in proper Navy format, the call starts with the letter "N". In just four days, nearly 2,000 contacts were made. That was only the beginning, showing the "risk" of daring to dream. And things just got even better for the club - and for Nauticus.

Another special event operation was planned, but Bus wasn't expecting to have the Nauticus ask the club to set up a permanent station at the museum. It happened. N4WIS will have a permanent berth at Nauticus. The station's primary mission is education about Nauticus, and about the ships which are a part of her.

There will be an April special event operation from the 16th to the 22nd to celebrate the reopening of Nauticus and the beginning of deck tours of the mighty battleship.

All HF bands from 80 through 10 meters will be operated, using CW, SSB, and

possibly RTTY and PSK31.

Following that, a lot of planning and preparation will happen to get antennas bought and erected and the station put permanently in place. The club is up to the challenge and the members are anxious to begin operating and telling the world about Nauticus and the histories of the Navy vessels.

For those too far from Virginia to be "participating" members of the club, associate memberships are available. Associate members already part of the club are from Virginia, Ontario, Delaware, and Wisconsin. The club can be found on the Web at: <http://www.qsl.net/n4wis>.

Probably most interesting in the sequence of events which took place was Bus' despair at what seemed to be an impossible task and which seemed to be going nowhere - the first operation last year. Bus kept his faith, and that faith was rewarded a hundred-fold. No despair now - but a lot of joy.

Bus, we salute you and the club and wish you many happy years of operating from the Nauticus. Who knows? Maybe we can work you from the Great Circus Train!

You can email Bus at: k4ix@exis.net.

Photos Wanted

Badger State Smoke Signals always can use good quality pictures of hams doing the things they do. Standard film and print pictures work best, but medium-resolution digital pictures work fairly well, too. The next time your club or group works on a project or takes part in a contest, have someone grab some photos. Send them to the editor, see page 2 for the address. If digital, JPG is preferred.

ManCoRad Radio Club

Continued from page 8

be done 3 times a year between April and September. Dick (N9QFY) will head this project this year. Thank you, Dick.

The attendance drawing was held. Len (N9QFO) was picked but not in attendance. The pot goes to 14.00.

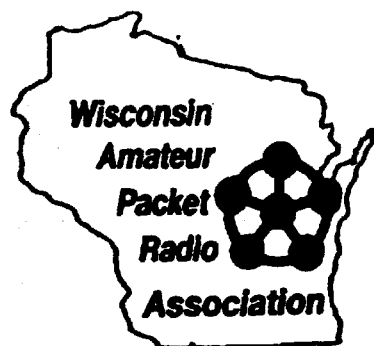
Our next meeting will be held April 11th at the bank at 7:30. Hope to see everyone there.

Meeting adjourned by motions from Gene (KB9KXF) and Bob (KB9INK) at 8:28.

Submitted for approval:
Theresa Hartlaub (KB9KXE), Secretary

Club Attendance

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Fred W6BSF | Rahlf N9AWG |
| Roger W9NPX | Chuck N9WUN |
| Theresa KB9KXE | Vic WB9VYO |
| Mary KB9GOY | Steve N9PBL |
| Denise N4WGK | Oran N9VIA |
| Ken K9HAG | Red N9GHE |
| Gene KB9KXF | Travis KB9YRC |
| Bob KB9INK | Dick N9QFY |
| Dan N9OWD | Dan N9FVZ |
| Don KB9NTL | |



THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association

Larry Shields, WD9ESU, Treasurer, W8929 Highway K, Lodi, WI 53555

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor · 453 Cottage Grove Avenue · Green Bay, WI 54304 · e-mail: kb9aln@juno.com

WAPR News - April, 2001

by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

No Foolin', it's April and spring gets closer to us with every passing day. Yes, antenna work is just around the corner.

March made it's traditional windy presence known last month with disastrous results for Larry, WD9ESU. As you may know, Larry has operated a BBS in Lodi for a number of years. Unfortunately, mother nature has interrupted Larry's BBS operation in a most dramatic way. Wind took down his 70-foot tower, along with the antennas. This effectively takes his BBS and Nodestack down until further notice.

Larry says not to fear, his station will be back on the air as soon as he can get it operational. Of course, this will take some time as a new tower will have to be erected and populated with antennas. And that will require more hospitable weather than we have seen in March. Cross your fingers and wish Larry well, perhaps he can get his system back on the air before too long.

By the way, this is not the first time that Ma Nature has given grief to Larry. I remember that he has been struck by lightning at least one time in the past. That strike took out virtually everything he had connected to the antennas, as well as his computer. Larry's determination to keep the BBS and nodes operating is commendable - a lot of people just would have thrown in the towel by now. But there is a reason why he keeps plugging away, trying to keep the BBS and nodes operational - it's an important link in the Wisconsin BBS and Node network.

The absence of his node stack and BBS have sent BBS operators throughout the region scrambling for alternative forwarding routes. ARES operators have also been feeling the pinch, as Larry had a port on the ARES node frequency as well. Operators in some parts of the state have had a tougher time getting to the WEMBBS in Madison, as a result of the downing of the tower.

It seems that, with the dwindling number of BBSs and nodes these days, almost every BBS and node can be considered "vital". No doubt about it, if even one node goes down for whatever reason, the Wisconsin network suffers considerably. Even if we can work around a missing node, the results are often not good. Network connections suffer and sometimes can't be made when a particular node is missing. If that node is a BBS, oftentimes packet mail delivery will be affected adversely.

Which brings up a point that needs to be discussed - does your local club sponsor a node or BBS? Is it in jeopardy? If something were to happen to it, would someone be able to get it back on the air?

If you find that these questions are not easy to answer, or you get the "wrong" answers, then perhaps it's time to look into this a bit. Perhaps it's time to get a local packet "committee" together, consisting of a few local packet operators that have volunteered to see that the BBS or node site continues operation. Such a committee could mean the difference between losing yet another network node or BBS, and keeping it operational.

Keeping the packet network intact is not just a matter of keeping ourselves amused with an interesting pastime. It means that we have one more method of communication with the DEM in Madison. It means that in times of emergency, the local packet system will be there as one more resource for ARES and RACES operators to use. And it's one mode that has some distinct advantages over voice operation in certain circumstances.

So if you are in a position to help maintain and/or operate a club-owned BBS or node, please volunteer to help. Your fellow packet operators will thank you, that's for sure. However, you may find that your efforts make far more of an impact than you ever realized if a disaster ever strikes.

Now on to the "mistakes department". I have a big "Oops" to let you know about, and to correct. Last month I started another series concerning operation of nodes, specifically the X-1J series of nodes that are widely used in Wisconsin. However, I mistakenly sent an early version of the article that had some incorrect information in it. Instead of going on to part two of the series, this month we will have the correct version of part one. If I did not put this version in, reading part two would be awfully confusing. I apologize for this mistake, and hope to not repeat it.

Carrying on another topic, I received one more reply to the packet survey that appeared here in the January edition of this column. This one is from Steve Lampeuer, KB9MWR. He is one of my packet friends here in Green Bay.

He tells us that he still uses packet and still finds it interesting. He was drawn to Amateur Radio through his hearing about packet radio. He finds automated personal mail delivery the most useful aspect of packet radio. He had no problems getting his station set up initially at 1200 bps. However, 9600 bps was more of a problem, because the radio tuning and setup was something that he was unable to do by himself.

Steve answered the question of "What would you like to see in packet radio" pretty completely. He'd like to see advancements, particularly more accepted use of advanced networking protocols like TCP/IP. He'd like to see implementation of dynamic IP address assignment so that

people would not have to obtain an IP address to use TCP/IP. Along with that, more simple dynamic routing is something he'd like to see.

Of course, I thank Steve for his comments and am always willing to hear more. Send your comments and news to one of my addresses at the top of this page. Hope to hear from you soon.

That's it for this month. Until next time, 73 from Andy.

Net/Rom Node Information for the Sysop - Part One

by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

Note: This is a corrected version of Part One that was printed last month. Please re-read it in it's entirety, as there are some rather significant changes in this corrected version. Sorry for mistake on my part and we'll continue with part two next month.

Introduction

This series is designed to help node operators understand the more complex aspects of node configuration and operation, perhaps explained in an easy-to-understand fashion. In addition to the explanations, you will find some WAPR recommendations on these more arcane settings so that you will find interfacing to the network a little easier.

Our discussion is centered around the popular TheNet X-1J series of nodes, which are in wide use throughout Wisconsin. It's assumed you know some of the basics of node operation, such as what an alias is. We won't discuss much of the security aspects of node operation, just some general security concepts. While this series

WISCONSIN AMATEUR PACKET RADIO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME: _____ CALL: _____ HOME PHONE: (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME BBS: _____ FREQ: _____ (Listing your home BBS is important)

MY PACKET STATION OPERATES: _____ DAY _____ NIGHT _____ 24 HOURS

I OPERATE A: _____ DIGIPEATER WITH AN ALIAS OF: _____

_____ FULL SERVICE BBS

PRIMARY PACKET INTEREST/EXPERTISE IS: _____

_____ YES: I want to receive Badger State Smoke Signals and I understand that part of my dues will go to pay the subscription. Cost \$20.00.

_____ NO: I do not wish to receive Badger State Smoke signals as part of WAPR membership. Cost \$15.00.

Complete and return this form with your check or money order — \$15.00 for membership only or \$20.00 for membership and Badger State Smoke Signals, made payable to W.A.P.R. to:

Larry Shields, WD9ESU, Treasurer,
W8929 Highway K
Lodi, WI 53555

is not specifically aimed at the node user, it can be a good resource for the casual user who wants to know more about nodes.

That said, we'll begin (and continue) alphabetically. The first and second installments deal with one of the least understood node configuration commands - ACL. We'll take two parts to discuss this command as it is so complex and requires a lot of attention to function properly.

What it is:

ACL is a mechanism for controlling access to nodes by users or other nodes. Although the X-1J manual does not explain what the letters mean, I call it "Anti-Connect List". This may or may not be correct, one will have to ask the authors of this firmware to be sure.

What it Does:

ACL has a list of call-signs and a numerical value associated with each call-sign. This numerical value is checked against two other numerical values, a "default value" and a "mask value". If a match is made, a particular action is taken.

Numerical values are based on "bit values" that correspond to a particular action that you wish the node to take. These bit values, and the action associated with them, are shown in the table below:

- 0 - Prohibit incoming Level 2 connections
- 1 - Prohibit outgoing Level 2 connections
- 2 - Ignore node broadcasts from this particular station
- 3 - Prohibit Level 3 (node packets) operation from this particular station
- 4 - Prohibit Level 4 incoming connections associated with a particular station
- 5 - Prohibit Level 4 outgoing connections associated with a particular station
- 6 - Ignore a particular station's SSID on the ACL list

Now it's time for some additional discussion before we go any further. Forgive me while I delve into this, however, it is important to understand just what these levels mean in order to use ACL effectively.

Level Two connections can be considered the AX.25 connection between a regular user and a node. The ACL command can prohibit a user from making a connection to or from the node. This corresponds to the bits 0 and 1. 0 prohibits regular users from connecting to the node. 1 will allow a user to connect to a node, but will only allow connections to other nodes (not other users).

Level Three connections are basically network management and relay. Setting the 3 bit will disallow relay of network node packets from or to the corresponding station on the ACL list.

Level Four connections are node-to-node connections. If a node call-sign has the 4 ACL bit set, this call-sign won't be able to connect. If this node call-sign has the 5 bit set for a node on the ACL list, it will be able to connect to your node, but your node will not be able to connect to it.

The remaining bits should be self-explanatory, ignoring node broadcasts and the SSID (Secondary Station Identification) bit do pretty much what you might think.

How it works:

When the node receives a connect request, or a request to connect to another call-sign, it checks the ACL list for call-sign entries. If the call-sign is present on the list, it takes action based on what ACL value is assigned to the call-sign. When it comes upon such a call-sign, it first looks at a "Mask" value that determines what the node should check for.

The Mask value is designed to speed things up by restricting the number of checks that would need to be made for a particular call-sign. For example, if we only need to ignore nodes broadcasts from a particular node, we would only set bit number 2 in the mask. This way, the computer has to only check for one thing instead of 7 things.

The other check that is made when a station attempts a connect is the "default" value. The Default value is also chosen by the node operator and may be virtually any number. It's best, however, to keep it low, for reasons we will cover in our next part, next month.

Until then, 73 from Andy.



Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)
K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)

Club net: Sundays 8:00 p.m. on 147.315

Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ, Secretary
450 W. 2nd St., Reedsburg, WI 53959-1500



The March 6, 2001 meeting of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:42 p.m. by club president Steve Schulze, N9UDO.

The minutes of the March 6, 2001 meeting was approved with the following correction - Zilch night actually occurs at 10 a.m. Sunday morning. Bill Klinkner, N9KXX gave the treasurer's report and accepted dues. The club now has twenty-three paid members.

OLD BUSINESS: Twenty-three people attended the first Zilch meeting at the Farm Kitchen on the fourth Sunday MORNING. Good food, good conversation, good time had by all. Steve gave an update on the repeater.

NEW BUSINESS: discussed power supply for the repeater. Decision to purchase was tabled for next meeting. Bill Hommel, KA9QFJ will be in charge of the May Fox-hunt. Silent Key Robert (Bob) King, W9QQQ was remembered and a discussion of possible memorials to be made in his name/memory. Club discussed the upcoming QSO party. Steve Schulze gave announced that a packet station was installed at the EOC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 followed by a demonstration of the packet station at the EC.

(Continued from page 2)

THE TEST POINT

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Monthly, 1st Sat. | Oshkosh (Omro), WI |
| Monthly, 1st Sat. | St. Paul, MN |
| Monthly, 2nd Thu. | Apple Valley, MN |
| Monthly, 2nd Sat. | Madison, WI |
| Monthly, 2nd Sat. | Blaine, MN |
| Monthly, 3rd Tue. | Eden Prairie, MN |
| Monthly, 3rd Sat. | Milwaukee, WI (BE) |
| (September through April) | |
| Monthly, 3rd Sat. | Loves Park, IL |
| Monthly, 3rd Sat. | Cottage Grove, MN |
| Monthly, 4th Sat. | Bloomington, MN |
| Monthly, Last Sat. | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |
| (except December) | |
| Monthly, Last Sat. | Tomahawk, WI |
| (January thru October only) | |

BSSS does not carry the full testpoint information in every issue. Please see last month's issue for additional information in specific test sites. Also, the latest information that we have is posted on our web site at: www.bsss.org

GENERAL RULES FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS:

Be sure to check with sponsors before going to an examination session. There may be changes and/or errors in the dates or information given.

Some examinations require filing an FCC or NCVEC Form 605 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. Some VE teams permit walk-ins. Check with the sponsor.

Many hamfests and swapfests offer examinations. A hamfest entrance fee should not be charged if you come only to attend the examination. To register in advance, you must get a copy of the current FCC Form 605, and fill it out completely and correctly. Got your form from the FCC as instructed below, or from the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please send an SASE if you request a form from the League. FCC Field Offices seldom stock forms. You can also get a form from

<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>
or

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday April 3, 2001, room 18, Baraboo Civic Center, 7:42 p.m. Zilch meeting Sunday March 25, 2001 at 10 a.m.

Respectively submitted,
Raymond J Matlosz, N9MLZ
Club Secretary

The following members were present:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|---------------|
| Maury Gurgel | KA9TBU | Reedsburg |
| Duane Grotophorst | N9DG | North Freedom |
| Thomas Harrison | N9PQJ | Reedsburg |
| Raymond Matlosz | N9MLZ | Reedsburg |
| Steve Schulze | N9UDO | Baraboo |
| Wayne Burgess | N9UDX | Lodi |
| Jim Paul | N9LKY | Baraboo |
| Bill Klinkner | N9KXX | Sauk City |
| Anne Klinkner | N9PQL | Sauk City |
| Patrick Klinkner | | Sauk City |
| Ken Johnson | K9DZG | Mazomanie |
| Leonard Wagner | N9XJG | Baraboo |
| Art Kleefisch | W9WSS | Baraboo |
| Bill Hommel | KA9QFJ | Baraboo |

<http://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/Form605>.

A form by FAX is available at (202) 418-0177 (request Form 000605). The FCC Forms Distribution Center will accept orders at (800) 418-3676. Form 605 has a main form, plus a Schedule D with two parts (for Vanity and Physician's Certifications). Forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group. See QST, W1AW bulletins, or The ARRL Letter regarding any annual exam fee changes. ARRL/VEC no longer gives a free code test or Element 2. Test fees: The ARRL/VEC has set its 2001 test fee at \$10.00. FCC requires applicants to show their original amateur license or CSCE to the VE team.

You must also have a good copy of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 605 and most VE teams need a copy for their records. One good CSCE copy is sufficient. You are also be required to have a photo ID, or two other forms of ID. Contact the VE team for details.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only. Proof must be either in the form of a pre-3/21/87 license document or a "Letter of Verification of Technician License Held Prior to 1987" as requested in writing from the FCC, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245.

For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml> By checking this page, you can find registered VE sessions anywhere in the US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC. It is a master database. Thanks to Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, ARRL/VEC

This section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available to publicize your Volunteer Examiner Amateur Radio license examination schedules. Please send us your schedules of dates, times, and locations that you will be conducting examinations and we will include the information here. Be sure to include contact address and any other necessary requirements. Information should be sent to kebnetter@palacenet.net.

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For Information Contact:
Jim Staats KG9RA at 715-838-9108
P.O. Box 1867 Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867
<http://www.ecarc.org> w9eau@ecarc.org

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Steve Schulze, N9UDO (608) 356-2313
<http://members.baraboo.com/sschulze/hamfest.htm>
Bill Klinkner, N9KXX (608) 643-6908/643-6453

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